

### **THE CURRENCY OF FORGIVENESS**

coffee brewed hours before she's awake  
hot water saved for the shower he takes  
drives with no sense of direction  
sometimes accepts of a course correction

listens to the same story told a hundred times  
waits patiently at the end of the line  
holding doors...holding tongues  
it all evens out when our days are done

CHORUS worth all you have...and nothing less  
all the tears and years that you invest  
there, from the moment you met  
no IOU'S... no repaid debts  
in the currency of forgiveness

an apology long before there's a fight  
no admission of who's wrong or who's right  
a halfhearted confession  
from some past life indiscretion

CHORUS worth all you have...and nothing less  
it's a beautiful complicated mess  
will it all add up to happiness?  
no IOU'S... no repaid debts  
in the currency of forgiveness

It's a long haul...there's bumps in the road  
It's only heavy if you don't share the load  
no regrets ...big or small  
always say I love you before nightfall

CHORUS worth all you have...and nothing less  
life keeps you up at night but love never rests  
isn't this why you both said yes  
no IOU'S... no repaid debts  
in the currency of forgiveness in the currency of forgiveness

### **FALLING NO MORE**

there are falls from grace...falling stars from the sky  
fall in New England...washing over your eyes  
the fall that you take when you meet your hearts end  
you may never recover from that one again  
there are falls you barely survive  
others make you feel more alive

CHORUS: we keep falling, falling and falling like rain  
soaked to the bone...aching and drained  
we keep falling, falling asking where, how and why  
and hope that one day we will rise

falling off the wagon falling off a bike  
one or the other can change your life  
there are falls you see coming...falls you endure  
falls where you dream of a better world  
an oak falls in a lightening flash  
no gettin' back up no second chance

CHORUS: we keep falling, falling and falling like rain  
soaked to the bone...aching and drained  
we keep falling, falling asking where, how and why  
wait for the time we will rise

BRIDGE: rise up, rise up, fly and soar...rise up, rise up,  
falling no more

CHORUS: no more falling, falling and falling away  
peaceful. protected. Free from the pain  
no more falling and falling or tears to be cried  
now is the time we will rise. now is the time we will rise

### **I FOLLOW**

I followed my sisters and brothers  
I followed the temptation of others  
worked hard to fit in...inside a different skin  
I begged, stole and borrowed...but mostly I followed

morning mass...a heathen acolyte  
heaven or hell...well, it could be either side  
said all my childhood confessions  
not sure now about any of those lessons

I followed...the stations of the cross  
gave credit for the wins...took blame for every loss  
I prayed that those wafers...were actually the savior  
cheap wine was the blood I swallowed...I served and followed

cut off jeans and faded t-shirts  
six packs, cigarettes.. driving round the outskirts  
wasting our lives, our futures, our pasts  
hoping to death that the die had not been cast

I followed the dream we were sold  
could not tell the truth from lies we were told  
tried to outrun...the things that I've done  
just to make it through tomorrow...oh I followed

BRIDGE: to avoid detection, hide my own reflection, an acne filled  
complexion, a guilt ridden erection...falling far short of perfection

now I follow the road less travelled  
turn by turn the secret gets unraveled  
I will follow a girl...to the ends of the earth  
my soul no longer hollow...my heart I follow  
oh I follow my heart I follow...oh I follow



**ALL WE'RE HOPING FOR**

a little bit of hope is all we're hoping for  
find our way to an open door  
our fingers crossed  
before all is lost  
a little bit of hope...is all we're hoping for

some sign of life is all we're living for  
on the losing end of a lopsided score  
getting hard to see  
or show humanity  
some sign of life is all we're living for

BRIDGE: who feels the loss?...which side will win?  
will god absolve all our earthly sins?

an honest act of love is all we're longing for  
unchain the prisoners of this war  
free to forgive  
and at last admit  
an honest act of love is all we're longing for

a little bit of hope is all we're hoping for  
find our way to an open door  
our fingers crossed  
before all is lost  
a little bit of hope... is all we're hoping for

at the end of our rope  
under a microscope  
a little bit of hope... is all we're hoping for

**LOST LOVE LETTERS**

he was rootin' around in that old root cellar  
looking for a bag of mail  
trying to find some lost love letters crumbs left along a trail  
lined paper torn from a bound notebook written in ball point pen  
from me to you...words so true or was he just imaginin'

CHORUS: no it's not the one you haven't met  
only the one that you can't forget  
memories may fade  
but a promise never made  
is a promise always kept

can't go back ...can't move on no matter which way he chose  
like a fragile moth to a fiery flame he was drawn to get too close

CHORUS: no it's not the one you haven't met  
only the one that you can't forget  
memories may fade  
but a promise never made  
is a promise always kept

BRIDGE: he said i love you so many times  
or was it only in his wayward mind  
reading in between the lines  
he's still searching for a sign

maybe in the one to Paris stamped but never sent  
pages that elude him now of a love that came and went

CHORUS: no it's not the one you haven't met  
only the one that you can't forget  
memories may fade  
but a promise never made  
is a promise always kept

**THIS OLD LIFE GOES**

today I saw my old friend tim  
truth be told there wasn't much left of him  
it was his face, his hands and curls of hair  
but a big part of him was no longer there.

he grabbed my arm and stared into my eyes  
not sure it's me that he really recognized  
always took on whatever life would throw  
it's just the way.... this old life goes.

CHORUS what part of us is the first to go?  
brushing our teeth or touching our toes  
will we still dream? or want ice cream?  
be out of our mind? or just doing time?  
guess it's the way the old wind blows.  
guess it's just the way...this old life goes...this old life goes.

sweet grand baby squirms upon his lap  
both wearing diapers and could use a little nap  
no more work—the occasional sing-along  
each day's the same from dusk to dawn.

CHORUS

it's not about fairness about wrong or right  
so make sure you kiss your loved ones goodnight  
memories get stolen with eyes opened or closed  
it's just the way... this old life goes.  
this old life goes...this old life goes.



### **THERE I WAS**

there I was in Chula Vista  
used my last piece of good luck  
looking for a little resurrection  
to get myself unstuck

it was a town of one too many  
a place with no point of view  
punched my ticket to the promised land  
thought every word you said was true

CHORUS: seems like I'm living on the wrong side of nowhere  
no roots in the ground  
yeah, I'm living on the wrong side of nowhere  
the lost that can't be found

left me here with empty pockets  
a ring short of a wedding band  
staring at the wreckage all around me  
'bout to make my last stand

CHORUS: Seems like I'm living on the wrong side of nowhere  
no roots in the ground  
yeah, I'm living on the wrong side of nowhere  
the lost that can't be found

BRIDGE: did you get what you wanted  
did you mean to set me free  
your escape route just wasn't  
always clear to me.

not sure where I go from here  
what I am looking for  
will I even recognize it  
If it walked right through the door

CHORUS: I'm tired of living on the wrong side of nowhere  
putting my roots in the ground  
no more living on the wrong side of nowhere  
the lost that's been found  
I was lost but now I'm found

### **COMPACT LIFE**

got a compact car...whole lot easier to park  
fits in those hard to fit spaces  
never a part of street drag races  
driving next to an SUV well, I feel a little puny  
good on gas near and far...i got a compact car

got a compact build...five foot five still strong willed  
as a kid, I was sorta stocky  
bad for hoops good for hockey  
wished i was tall and thin...and maybe a bit more significant  
no fashion sense no frills...I got a compact build

BRIDGE: but I'm expanding my heart  
stretching out my soul  
letting my spirit span this entire earthly globe  
ain't gonna let this moment go

got a compact disc...all it took was to take a few risks  
folks who believed in me  
all my friends, my extended family  
got no vinyl or cassettes...nor many financial assets  
can anyone still play this?...I got a compact disc

got compact life...some of you may wonder why  
downsized a few years ago  
here's what I've got to show  
a smaller carbon footprint...a 42 year sacrament.  
still makes me feel so alive...I got a compact life

I got a compact life, oh yeah  
I got a compact life with a compact car and a compact build  
I got a compact life with a compact disc in a compact world  
I got a compact life  
a compact home, compact wife...I love my compact life

### **SMILE**

we always seemed so young...til suddenly we were not  
brothers, sisters, mom and dad...the whole big lot  
as we scattered then gathered together back again  
preparing ourselves for our second wind

we remember all hands folded ready to say grace  
each and every one of us is in our narrow little place  
never let on there's a loose tooth on the edge of your gums  
'cause that dentist's work, well, it's never done

CHORUS: smile, it's what we all got from him  
smile for the camera and let it smile back again  
smile for the slides and the prints and the film  
it's how we'll remember him

there were ten of us at one time- now we're down to six  
brand new additions add life into the mix  
face forward for the portrait we hear the camera click.  
deep in hearts we hear life's clock tock tick

CHORUS: smile even though we are aching inside  
smile side by side by side  
smile no matter the shape we're in  
record the moment then begin again

A mouth full of big teeth, silver hair and dark eyes  
as the wind hits over the starboard side  
and though the pain of loss is still right there  
we can smell the river in the thick morning air

CHORUS: smile, it's what we all got from him  
smile for the camera and let it smile back again  
smile for the slides and the prints and the film  
that's how we'll remember him

REPEAT CHORUS

## **SOMETHING ANYTHING**

I'm looking for something positive today  
I'm looking for something positive today  
on every street on every face  
momentary signs of grace  
I'm looking for something positive today

I'm looking for something I believe in today  
I'm looking for something I believe in today  
to leave fears far behind  
restore faith in humankind  
I'm looking for something I believe in today

BRIDGE: could be something big or something small  
could be almost nothing at all  
might not mean a thing  
maybe changes everything

I'm looking for something I can give you today  
looking for something I can give you today  
to quell all of the noise  
a little peace, a little joy  
I'm looking for something I can give you today  
I'm looking for something I can give you today  
I'm looking for something positive today  
I'm looking for something I believe in today

## **SUNDAY MORNING\***

*A poem by Marjorie Ward*

sunday to mass, then home for a treat  
breakfast is special, service is neat

clean up and pack, beds made by the clock  
yellow car waiting to drive down to the dock

routine takes over, boys hoist the boat  
girls mind the babies, order by rote

baskets on board, skipper in place  
motor is started, slow now is the pace  
slow now is the pace  
slow now is the pace

gone is the hurry, no more rush that day  
leisure takes over, we're under way

family joy creates a bond  
parents are friends and the children they respond

now they are gone those joyous days  
love nurtured them, it eased our ways

those Sundays still live in each member's heart  
they keep us a family even though we're far apart  
even though we're far apart  
even though we're far apart

## **CREDITS**

**Mike Ward:** Lead vocal & Acoustic guitar all tracks

**David Roof:** Bass & fretless bass on all tracks  
Piano (2,3,9 & 11) Acoustic & electric guitar (10)

**Larry Labeck:** Pedal steel guitar (4, 7, 8)

**Dave Keeney:** Lap steel guitar (6)

**Grant Flick:** Violin (1, 3, 9)

**Lucy Little:** Violin (5)

**James Anthony:** Mandolin (4, 7, 8)

**Bill Sadley:** Harmonica (6)

**Michael Shimmin:** Percussion (10)

**Annie Bacon:** Backing vocals (1, 4)

**Judy Brown:** Backing vocals (6)

**Amy Petty:** Backing vocals (2,10)

**Alison & Tessa Wiercioch:** Backing vocals (4,12)

**Emilia Ward:** Backing vocals (9)

**Produced, Engineered, Mixed and Mastered by David Roof**  
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Danny Ward (inside)

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All music and lyrics by Mike Ward, BMI

\*Music by Mike Ward, lyrics by Marjorie Ward

